



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Office of the Commissioner

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S.B. No. 313 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN WIC AND SENIOR NUTRITION FARMERS' MARKET PROGRAMS BY CERTAIN NONPROFIT FARMERS'

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture supports the proposal in S.B. No. 313 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN WIC AND SENIOR NUTRITION FARMERS' MARKET PROGRAMS BY CERTAIN NONPROFIT FARMERS' to create a small pilot program in which individual non-profit farmers engaged in cooperative retail marketing of Connecticut Grown farm products could participate as vendors in the state's Farmers' Market WIC and Senior Nutrition programs.

The agency emphasizes the need to study such a pilot and collect data over at least two years to measure results, particularly the economic ramifications on for-profit farmers and other farmers' markets participating in the Farmers' Market WIC and Senior Nutrition programs. If the goals of the pilot are accomplished during the study phase without detrimentally affecting other farmers and farmers' markets in the WIC and Senior Nutrition programs, the agency would be better positioned to make a favorable recommendation to expand such a pilot.